Note: The Education Report can be viewed online at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/report/

Issue No. 43

In The News

$600K for New Burnaby School and Four Seismic Upgrades

Schools to Be Safer with $11.2-Million Seismic Upgrades

Early Childhood Learning Consultations Extended

Premier Honours B.C. Literacy Champion

Support for Remote Communities to Recruit Teachers

Contact Information

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Telephone:
250-387-1977

Fax:
250-387-3200

E-mail:
minister.educ@gov.bc.ca

Links

- Media Room
- StrongStart BC
- LearnNow BC
- School Choices
- Healthy Schools
- ReadNow BC
- School District Visits

Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

Summer is a wonderful time to rest, rejuvenate and read. Libraries across B.C. are offering summer reading programs for children and teens, which gives students a chance to sharpen their literacy skills.

While literacy rates in B.C are some of the strongest in the country, studies have shown that 20 per cent of students in this province have difficulty reading. Through Summer Reading Clubs, students can improve their reading levels. These clubs keep children and teens reading over the summer months, and help them prepare for the upcoming school year.

Summer Reading Clubs are funded through ReadNow BC, the province's literacy action plan to improve literacy skills in all British Columbians. ReadNow BC is designed to increase awareness of the literacy challenge in B.C. and to increase access to resources and programs to ensure everyone has opportunities to improve their literacy skills.

Strengthening literacy skills is not just for students. The Ministry of Education is working to build literacy skills of adults, too. We know that adults with solid literacy skills compete better in the labour market and function better in everyday life. That's why the government has invested more than $137 million in new literacy initiatives since 2001.

I encourage everyone to pick up a book this summer and read. Reading is beneficial and it's fun!

Beijing Highlights

Deputy Premier and Education Minister, Shirley Bond visited Beijing, China June 22-29 to open Education Days at the B.C. Canada. She celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Dalian Maple Leaf International School — B.C.'s first and biggest off-shore program. Bond also met with K-12 students set to study abroad in British Columbia. Read more.

Education Minister Shirley Bond visits with students at the Dalian Maple Leaf International School while in China.

HOT TOPIC

The Province is committed to providing students with choice and flexibility in their studies year round. School districts, parents and students have told us how important it is to have courses offered in the summer, and we've listened.

Summer school funding rose to $10.7 million in 2007, an increase from the $2 million provided by our government in 2006. Last year, thirty-six school districts provided summer school courses to students across British Columbia and nineteen of those districts were rural. We expect that number to grow in 2008 and summer school funding will increase to a record level as a result.

It's important to note that the funding model for summer 2008 is an interim one. It was determined after collaboration with the Ministry's education partners, including trustees, superintendents and secretary-treasurers from both rural and urban districts. Per-course funding amounts were based on the average amount previously charged per district.

The Ministry will continue consultations with school districts and other education partners this fall to determine how summer school will be funded beyond 2008.

We continue to explore a variety of ways to deliver summer learning to all districts, both urban and rural, including the effective use of distributed learning.

Reading Corner

Disguised as a boy, 13-year-old Elva Parkhurst leaves Victoria in 1864 to find her father somewhere in the Cariboo, where he has been prospecting for six years. Elva is furious when her brother, Tim, follows her on board the S.S. Beaver. Together the two journey 500 miles up the Cariboo Wagon Road moving from adventure to adventure. When

they finally arrive in Barkerville, they discover their father is in jail! Only his children can free him.

Caribou Runaway
Written by Sandy Frances Duncan